



## RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: April 25, 2022, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Thompson and Chris Benzing, Andrew Cassilly, Don Mulrine, Janice Palmer, Steve McHenry, John Hartline, Matt Tefteau, Bill Christopher, Kimberly Kratovil, Diana Hsu, Charlotte Davis Amander Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy, Dakota Matthews.

Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson welcome everyone to the meeting at 2:03pm and conducted roll call. Ms. Thompson asked if there were any changes to the March 21, 2022 meeting minutes. There were none. The 3/21/2022 minutes were unanimously accepted. Ms. Charlotte Davis provided a budget approval review which included \$9 million for the Rural Maryland Council; \$50 million for the Rural Regional Councils for the Rural Economic Development Fund; \$50 million for the Senator George Edwards Economic Incentive Fund; and, full funding for MARBIDCO as well as funding for additional programming, such as livestock processing grant program, a wood products equity incentive program, waterman's micro loan program, Next Gen program, oyster shucking house loan program. Additional funding reviewed was full funding for Program Open Space, \$16.5 million additional dollars for MALPF and \$2 million for the Urban Agriculture grant program. The Committee discussed how this was an unprecedented budget year and very good news for both existing and new programs. They further discussed that it will be important over the next year to demonstrate successful utilization of funds within the programs to demonstrate the funds are well used within the rural communities and to be able to advocate for the funds in the future.

Charlotte Davis reviewed leadership changes and stated that the Speaker announced changes of a new chair of the House Appropriates Committee, Delegate Ben Barnes and the new chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk. Committee discussed the importance of fostering relationships with the leadership of the Health and Government Operations Committee as they have seen some rural issues being sent there.

The Committee reviewed the bill tracking sheet which totaled 254 bills monitored and 84 position statements submitted. Committee discussed legislative highlights that included the workers opportunity tax credit passed, the dental services for Medicaid passed, and partial restoration of the Highway User Revenue funds.

The Committee debriefed on the Maryland Day event that took place on March 25, 2022 and stated that it was a real success and that it will be an event that will be held in the future. The Committee discussed the 2023 date since the actual Maryland Day falls on a Saturday and that a week after cross over might work best and check to see what rooms might be available in case, we need an indoor venue due to weather. The Committee further discussed that we may need a new theme if it does not happen on the actual day. 'A Count down to Maryland Day' was suggested. Committee decided to look at the third week in March 2023. Additionally, the Committee discussed holding a welcome breakfast for everyone in order introduce new rural legislators in early January as it was a success four years ago.

The Committee reviewed the draft 2022 Legislative Review and Ms. Lindsay Thompson asked for comments to be sent to Dakota Matthews by Friday, April 29, 2022.

The Committee discussed interim activities and decided to host a hybrid legislative committee meeting at the Wye Research Center in July following the primary election. The purpose of the meeting is to review the results of the July primary, legislator outreach & education, and priority legislation. RMC staff will send out a doodle poll for the best date to meet during the last two weeks of July. The Committee reviewed the candidate one-pager that will be sent after the primary and comments were asked to be sent to Dakota Mathews. The Committee discussed inviting both the general election candidates for the gubernatorial race to the September Board meeting. The Committee approved that the Lt. Governor candidate could attend in lieu of the gubernatorial candidate.

Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson shared that the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative is hosting a forum on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club and the primary gubernatorial candidates have been invited. Ms. Thompson will send the link to RMC staff to distribute to the Committee as the event requires pre-registration.

The Committee discussed introducing RMC legislation in FY2023 in order update the statute to remove the sunset date, add workforce development, and identify a funding source. The Committee decided to plan to get the bill introduced as it could be a good educational effort to legislators and reevaluate as the budget situation becomes clearer.

Ms. Charlotte Davis and Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson thanked committee members for the participation this year. The meeting at 2:45pm.